



Which "James" Wrote this Letter?

See the introductory notes on page 2 of this study guide

Deep in the Bible Study of James (1:1-18)



I. Joy in Trials (2-12)

Why should we be joyful in the face of trials?

A. Perseverance (3-8)

What do we do if we don't have the wisdom to see the benefit of a trial we are dealing with? What if we can't handle the trial we are facing? We should pray to God and ask for wisdom. (5)



B. Perspective (9-11)

Why do trials exalt the poor man but humble the rich man? Trials can show us what is really important in life!

-Ecclesiastes 2:1-11



C. Promise (12)

Eternal Glory with God will be worth anything we endure in this life!

-Romans 8:18-21

-2 Timothy 4:7-8

James 1:1-18 (ESV) Acts 8:1; 11:19; 1 Peter 1:1

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, Things that put us to the test

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. - Perseverance (NIV) Endurance (NASB)

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. - Gen 2:17 (1 John 1:5) Rom 6:23

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

A Workout for Our Faith

-Trials are like a workout for our faith that builds endurance!

-Compare this to Paul's writings in Romans 5:2-5

"...and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame..."

What does it mean to ask in faith? Living as though the answer to our prayer has already been set in motion! -Matthew 14:28-33 -Mark 11:22-24 -Joshua 3:14-17

Based on what James has said about the benefits of trials, this conclusion might be incorrectly made about the source of temptation

God cannot be the source of temptation, because He cannot be tempted by or joined with evil. This is part of His nature

Good and Perfect Gifts Instead of "death", God is the source of good and perfect gifts including a new birth (John 3:3). He is the source of LIFE! -Rom 6:23

II. The Source of Temptation (13-18)

What is the true source of our temptation?



We are tempted to sin because of our desires (14) This is part of our human nature (Rom 7:13-25)



Introduction to James

Author: "James" who identifies himself as "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (1:1). There are four men who bear this name in the New Testament:

- **James, son of Zebedee** and brother of John - A fisherman called by Christ (**Matthew 4:17-22**) who later became an apostle of Christ (**Matthew 10:2**). Together with John, they were nicknamed "Sons of Thunder", likely because of their impulsiveness or zealotry (cf. **Mark 3:17** with **Luke 9:51-56**). He was killed by Herod (Agrippa I) as recorded in **Acts 12:1-2**.
- **James, son of Alphaeus** - Another one of the apostles of Christ (**Matthew 10:3; Acts 1:12**), about whom very little is known.
- **James, father of Judas** the apostle - Even more obscure, one of the few references to him is **Luke 6:16**.
- **James, the brother of Jesus** - A half-brother of Jesus (**Matthew 13:55**), who did not believe in his brother at first (**John 7:5**). He became a disciple following the resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 1:14**) and gained prominence in the church at Jerusalem (**Galatians 2:9**). As evidence of his prominence, Peter sent him a special message following his own release from prison (**Acts 12:17**). James also played an important role in the conference at Jerusalem (**Acts 15:13-33**), and Paul brought him greetings upon arriving at Jerusalem after his third missionary journey (**Acts 21:18-19**).

Of these four, "James, the Lord's brother" (**Galatians 1:19**) is the most likely the author of this epistle. According to the historian Josephus, he was martyred in 62 A.D.

Recipients: The epistle is addressed to "to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:" (1:1). This points to Jewish believers who had been scattered from Jerusalem in the persecution following Stephen's death (**Acts 8:1; 1 Peter 1:1**). While they were Jews, the epistle makes it clear they were also Christians.